

GOLD
KEY

THE MIGHTY HERCULES

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JULY

THE MIGHTY HERCULES

Searching for the Flower of
Life, Hercules is attacked
by a deadly sea monster!





KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

PHYSICAL FITNESS

NUMBER 1

THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM FOR PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT

This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.



Physical fitness gives power—power to enjoy and to succeed, power to be a winner! Many do not have it! They lose out!



Physical fitness means endurance! Endurance comes with prolonged work... A short bicycle ride won't develop it; practice will!



Physical fitness means strength! Muscles become stronger when they do work requiring more than half their present strength!



Physical fitness means over-all health! The rhythmic sports, like swimming, rowing or running, develop every part of the body!



The President's Council on Youth Fitness has urged physical improvement in Americans of school age. Let's all pull our weight!

The Mighty Hercules

THE CURSE OF THE STONE STATUES

AS HELENA ENTERS THE PALACE OF PRINCE DORIAN AT CALYDON IN ANCIENT GREECE...

STRANGE---WHY ISN'T ANYONE HERE?
THERE'S NOT A SOUND---NOT A MOVEMENT!



AND WHY IS THAT
STATUE OF PRINCE
DORIAN SITTING ON
HIS ROYAL THRONE?



WHAT ARE STONE STATUES
OF THE GUARDS AND PEOPLE
DOING HERE? I-I FEEL THAT
SOMETHING EVIL HAS
HAPPENED!





WHEN SUNLIGHT REFLECTS FROM THE JEWEL OF THE SCEPTER OF MEDUSA ON TO SOMEONE, HE TURNS INTO STONE! AND ONCE HERCULES IS STONE, NO ONE CAN STOP ME FROM RULING CALYDON!



A CLOUD! IT WILL PASS QUICKLY ENOUGH! AND THEN, I CAN TURN HERCULES INTO A PILE OF HARMLESS STONE!



OH, HERCULES, I'M FRIGHTENED! I WAS BRINGING FLOWERS FOR PRINCE DORIAN'S THRONE ROOM -- BUT LOOK! NO ONE'S THERE -- JUST STONE STATUES!



HELENA, THESE AREN'T STATUES-- THEY ARE PEOPLE TURNED INTO STONE!

HO-HOW COULD THAT HAPPEN?



ONLY ONE PERSON IS EVIL AND CUNNING ENOUGH TO TURN FLESH INTO STONE--THE WIZARD DAEDALUS!

AH! HERE COMES THE SUN!



AS DAEDALUS STARTS TO REFLECT THE SUNLIGHT AT HERCULES, SUDDENLY...



BUT AS THE DEADLY SCEPTER OF MEDUSA FALLS, ITS REFLCTED LIGHT FLASHES ACROSS HELENA...



HELENA! HELENA!-- GREAT ZEUS! SHE'S TURNED INTO A STONE STATUE!



HERE'S THE REASON FOR IT, HERC!

DAEDALUS!-- THANKS, NEWTON! YOU CAME BY IN TIME! I'LL MAKE HIM BRING THE STATUES BACK TO LIFE OR HE'LL WISH HE WERE MADE OF STONE!



YOU'RE NOT USING THAT SCEPTER AGAIN!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO ESCAPE HERCULES! USE MY CLOAK OF INVISIBILITY!





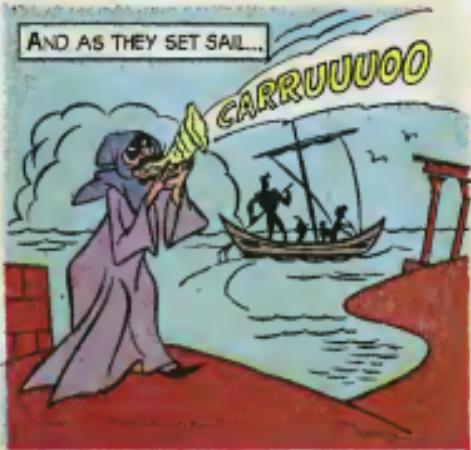
THEN, TO RESCUE HELENA AND THE
OTHERS, WE SAIL FOR THE ISLAND
OF HOPE!

WAIT FOR
US!



AND AS THEY SET SAIL...

CARRUUUOO



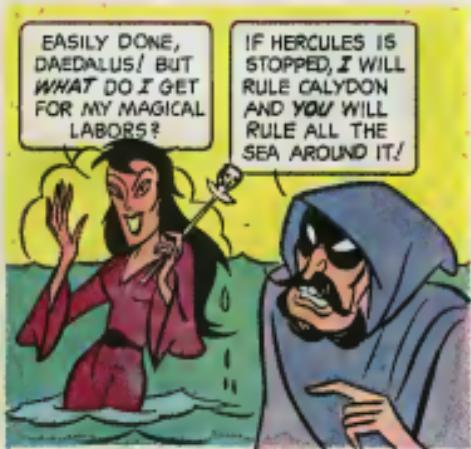
YOU SUMMONED
ME, DAEDALUS?

YES, WILAMENE! USE
YOUR BLACK MAGIC
POWERS AS A SEA
WITCH TO KEEP HERCULES
FROM REACHING THE
ISLAND OF HOPE!



EASILY DONE,
DAEDALUS! BUT
WHAT DO I GET
FOR MY MAGICAL
LABORS?

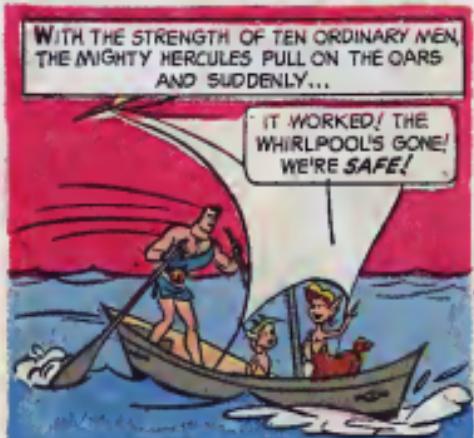
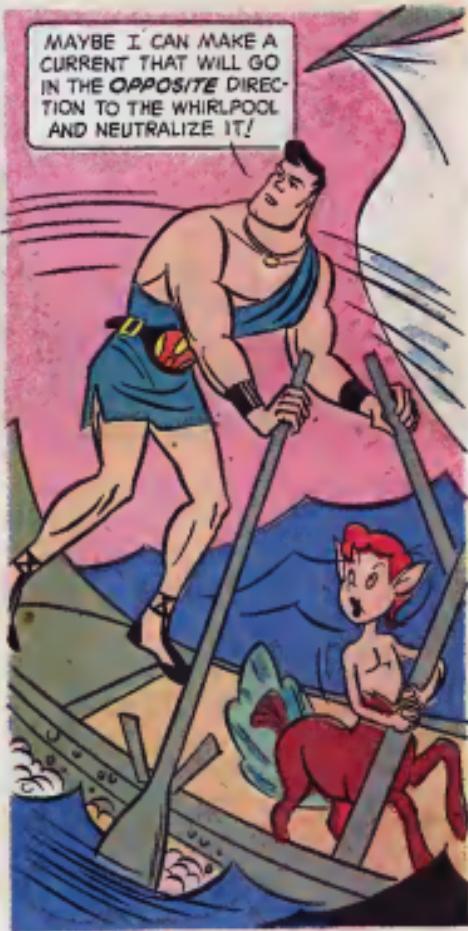
IF HERCULES IS
STOPPED, I WILL
RULE CALYDON
AND YOU WILL
RULE ALL THE
SEA AROUND IT!



HERCULES CAN'T GO FAR WITHOUT
WIND! AND NOW, I COMMAND THE
SEA WINDS TO STOP!

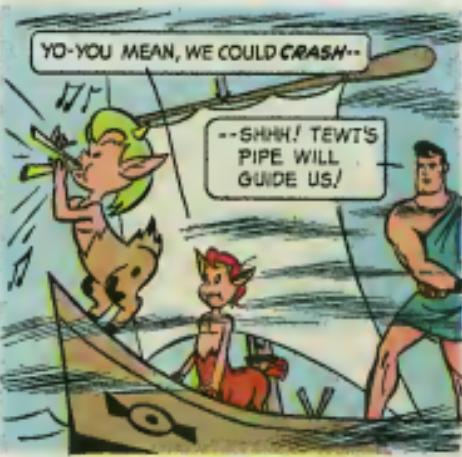
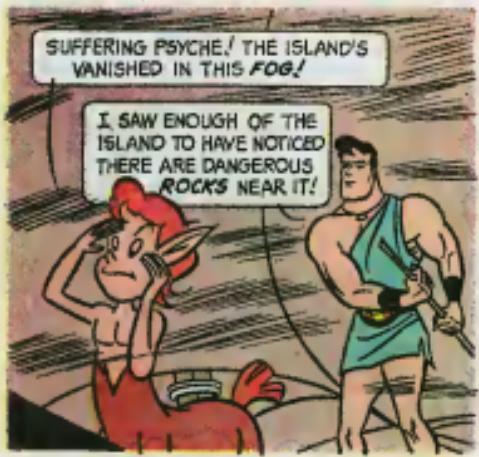




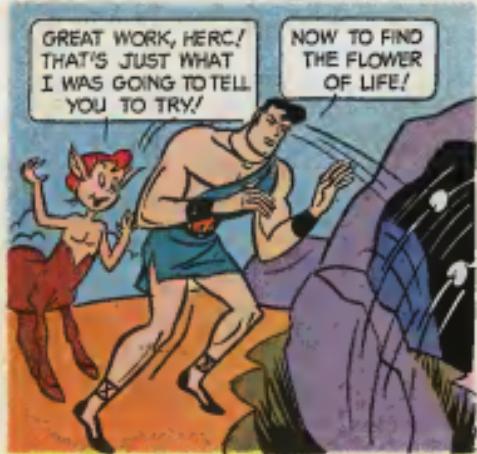


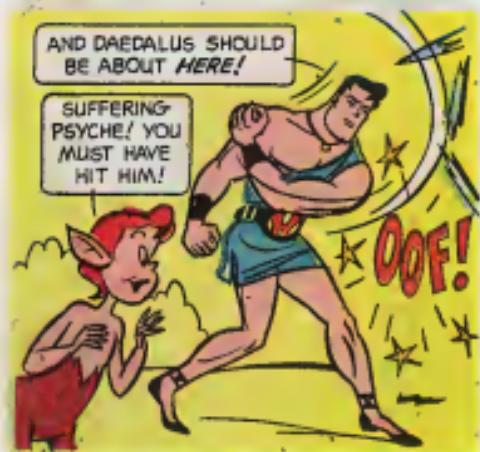
BELow HERCULES' CRAFT, THE SEA STIRS WILDLY AND SUDDENLY...













Great Heroes of Mythology

INTO THE COURT OF KING AEGEUS IN ATHENS COMES A HERALD WITH A GRIM REMINDER...

THESEUS FIGHTS THE MINOTAUR

IT IS TIME, EXCELLENCY, TO SEND YOUR TRIBUTE TO KING MINOS OF CRETE!



WHY DO WE PAY ANOTHER KING TRIBUTE, FATHER?

YEARS AGO, THESEUS, TO GET RID OF MINOS AND HIS TROOPS, I PROMISED TO SEND HIM SEVEN YOUTHS AND SEVEN MAIDS EACH YEAR!



THEY ARE SACRIFICED TO THE MAN-EATING MONSTER CALLED THE MINOTAUR!

THEN IT IS TIME THE SACRIFICE WAS ENDED! LET ME BE ONE OF THE YOUTHS AND I WILL TRY TO SLAY THE MINOTAUR!



RELUCTANTLY, KING AEGEUS LETS HIS SON SET SAIL FOR CRETE...

WE ARE DOOMED, THESEUS, WE WILL NEVER SEE OUR HOMELAND AGAIN!



AT MINOS' COURT...

I AM AEGEUS' SON AND ASK A FAVOR! LET ME BE THE FIRST SACRIFICED TO THE MINOTAUR!

AEGEUS' SON! BUT WHY SHOULD YOU WANT TO DIE FIRST?



SO I CAN END THIS SACRIFICE BY SLAYING YOUR MINOTAUR!

YOU WILL BE THE FIRST FED TO HIM IN THE MORNING! BUT IT IS A PITY TO SEE SUCH A BRAVE YOUTH DIE!



THAT EVENING, MINOS' DAUGHTER, ARIADNE COMES TO THE PRISON WINDOW...

YOU CAN'T SLAY THE MINOTAUR UNARMED, AND EVEN IF YOU KILLED HIM, YOU COULD NOT ESCAPE THE LABYRINTH WHERE HE IS KEPT! NO ONE CAN GET OUT OF THAT MAZE!

ATHENS HAS LOST ENOUGH OF ITS YOUTH! I MUST TRY!



YOU ARE BRAVE, THESEUS, TO WANT TO TRY TO KILL THE MINOTAUR! LET ME HELP YOU!



YOU? BUT YOU ARE MINOS' DAUGHTER!

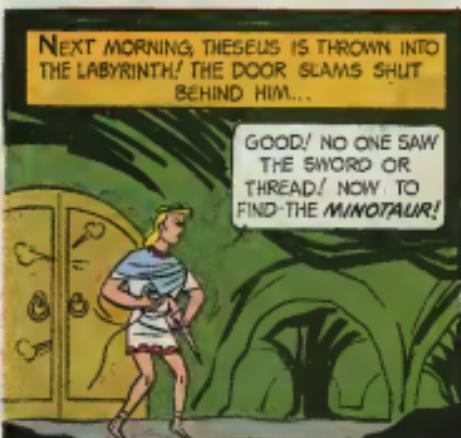
TAKE THESE! THE SWORD IS FOR THE MINOTAUR! AS YOU GO THROUGH THE LABYRINTH, RUN OUT THE BALL OF THREAD! THEN FOLLOW IT BACK TO THE DOOR! BUT IF YOU SUCCEED, I CANNOT FACE MY FATHER -- PROMISE TO TAKE ME WITH YOU!

GLADLY ARIADNE!



NEXT MORNING, THESEUS IS THROWN INTO THE LABYRINTH! THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT BEHIND HIM...

GOOD! NO ONE SAW THE SWORD OR THREAD! NOW TO FIND THE MINOTAUR!



TYING THE END OF THE THREAD TO THE DOOR, THESEUS UNWINDS IT AS HE GOES INTO THE LABYRINTH TWISTING, TURNING, DIZZING PASSAGES, WHEN SUDDENLY...



SUDDENLY, WITH A DYING SURGE OF FURY,
THE HALF-MAN HALF-BULL MONSTER CHARGES!



QUICKLY, THESEUS FOLLOWS
THE THREAD...

ARIADNE'S TRICK
WORKED! THERE IS
THE LABYRINTH'S DOOR!



ARIADNE!

I THANK THE GODS YOU
ARE SAFE! BUT WE MUST
HURRY! I HAVE Bribed THE
SENTRIES! YOUR FRIENDS
ARE IN THE
BOAT!



SAILS BILLOWING IN THE WIND,
THEY RACE AWAY FROM CRETE,
THE THREAT OF THE MINOTAUR
ENDED AND AHEAD LIES GREECE,
WHERE ARIADNE WILL SOON BE
COME THESEUS' WIFE!



THE FLOWING GOLD OF GREECE



In the ancient legends we often read stories of vast hoards of treasure such as the wealth of Croesus, and the gold of Midas. And one of the most exciting tales was that of Jason and the Argonauts hunting far the mythical "Golden Fleece."

But if truth were known, the greatest treasure of ancient Greece was the fruit of the olive tree! To the ancient Greek olive oil was a vital necessity of everyday life. The oil was used to prepare many foods. In the evenings, the Greek home was lit by an oil lamp. Such clay lamps have been found by the hundreds whenever archaeologists investigate ancient building sites in Greece.

Before entering a contest in the gymnasium, the Greek athlete rubbed himself down with olive oil. Historians report that the Persians had perfected a method of preserving fabrics by dipping them in a mixture of olive oil and honey.

The finest olives were grown near Athens—in the province of Attica. Athens itself was the center of the olive oil trade in Greece. Indeed, the Greeks believed that Athena, the Goddess of Athens, had invented the olive. In gratitude for this gift, the Athenians set up a special enclosure near Athena's temple on the Acropolis. There, worshipers could see with their own eyes the very olive tree which Athena had brought to earth.

Olives were harvested late in the year. In the winter months Greek men would climb up the gnarled branches carrying long flexible rods. These were used to shake down the ripe olives. After being

gathered in baskets the olives were bruised in a mill, and then brought to the olive press which was set up near the grave.

The press was a stone block. The olives, in a woven container, were placed upon the block and then pressed by means of a huge lever which was weighted with a bag of stones at the end. The operator of the press added his own weight to that of the stones. The oil was caught by a groove cut in the stone base of the press, a spout guided it into a large clay jar.

The economical Greeks pressed the olive mash several times, but the quality of the oil became poorer with each pressing.

During the olive harvest customers and wholesale dealers visited the graves to buy the freshly-pressed oil. Before completing the purchase, the buyer would taste the oil and then rub a few drops on the back of his hand, sniffing it to catch the bouquet. This was the way he could determine the quality of the sample.

After the olive harvest Greek trading vessels carried the olive oil to ports throughout the Mediterranean Sea. While transported, the oil was packed in tall jars called "ompharae."

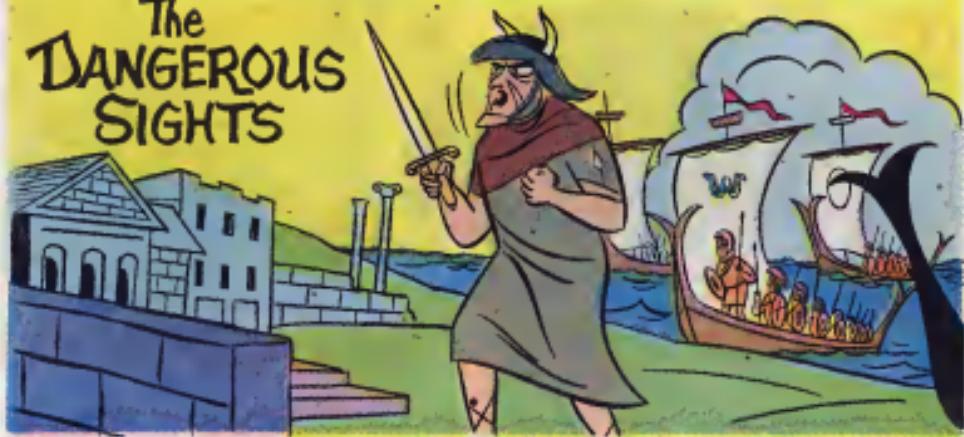
In trade for their oil the Greeks received metal, textiles, rare woods and grain.

The Greek hero, Alexander the Great conquered empires from Egypt to India, gathering the wealth of nations as he marched. But nowhere in his conquests did Alexander find a treasure equal to the flowing gold of Greece—the oil of the olive!

The Mighty Hercules

The DANGEROUS SIGHTS

TO THE SHORES OF CALYDON COMES A FIERCE INVASION FLEET...



THEY HAVE HUGE
SIEGE WEAPONS,
PRINCE DORIAN!

AND THEY OUTNUM-
BER US! THEY WON'T
BE EASY TO DRIVE OFF...
BUT WE MUST NOT FAIL!



WE NEED HELP!
--- HERCULES!



FAR ABOVE ON MOUNT OLYMPUS...

HERCULES, WE
ARE BESIEGED!
SAVE US!

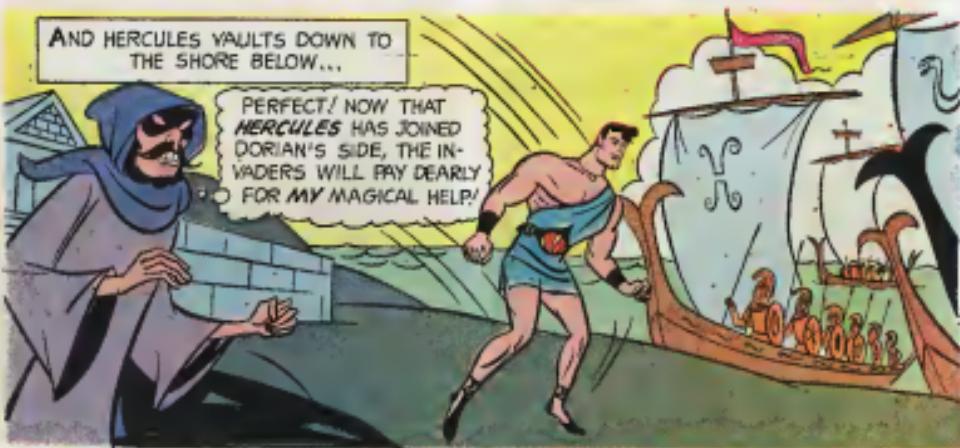


QUICKLY, HERCULES SLIPS ON THE MAGIC
RING THAT ALL-POWERFUL ZEUS, KING OF
THE GODS, GAVE HIM...



AND HERCULES VAULTS DOWN TO
THE SHORE BELOW...

PERFECT! NOW THAT
HERCULES HAS JOINED
DORIAN'S SIDE, THE
INVADERS WILL PAY DEARLY
FOR MY MAGICAL HELP!





WHAT WILL YOU DO? SHRINK HIM TO A DWARF SIZE? TURN HIM INTO A CROW?

NO! I WILL MAKE HERCULES--THIRSTY!



STRANGE-- ALL OF A SUDDEN THIS TRIFLING LABOR HAS GIVEN ME A BURNING THIRST!



AH! I AM IN LUCK!
I CAN DRINK MY FILL
THERE AND THEN
SHOVE OFF THE REST
OF THE INVADERS'
SHIPS!



SUFFERING PSYCHE! DON'T DRINK, HERC! THAT'S THE WATERS OF ILLUSION!



STOP! DAEDALUS MUST HAVE MADE YOU DRINK THERE! NOW, WHATEVER YOU SEE WILL BE MAGNIFIED INTO A FEARFUL SIGHT!

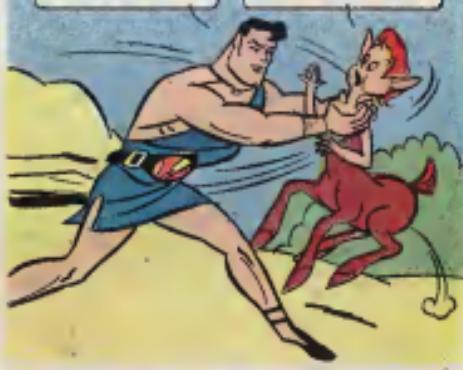


AND AS HERCULES LOOKS UP FROM THE
WATERS OF ILLUSION, HE SEES A STARTLING
SIGHT...



NO SIX-ARMED
CREATURE IS
ATTACKING ME--

--HEY! CUT IT
OUT, HERC! I--IT'S
ME--NEWTON!



I'M SAFE, BUT HOW CAN I
BREAK THE WATER OF ILLUSION'S
SPELL SO HERC CAN HELP PRINCE
DORIAN?



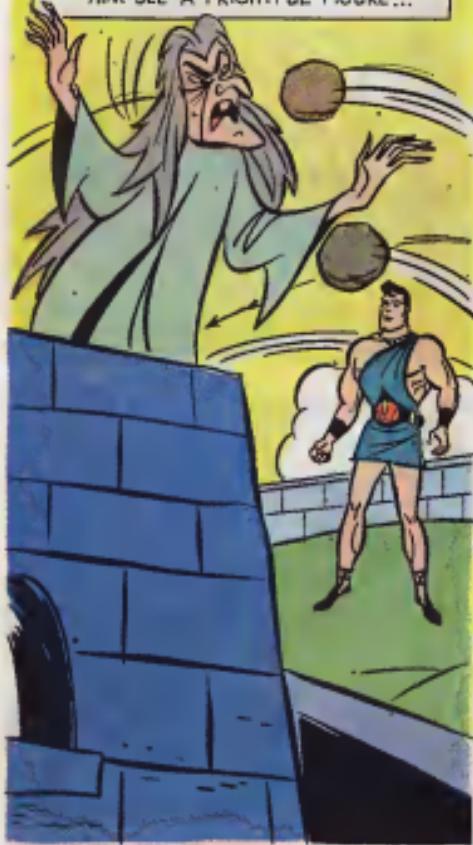
AND AS THE INVADERS' CATAPULT HURLS ROCKS SKYWARD

HERCULES! HERCULES, COME
BACK AND SAVE US!

BOOM!



BUT WHEN HERCULES TURNS TO LOOK AT HELENA, THE WATERS OF ILLUSION MAKE HIM SEE A FRIGHTFUL FIGURE...



HERCULES! WHY ARE YOU TURNING AWAY? DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? COME BACK!



SEE! HERCULES
TURNS HIS BACK
ON THEM!

I'LL CHASE HIM AND
MAKE SURE HE
DOESN'T COME BACK
TO BOTHER US!



AT THE SOUND OF THE APPROACHING CHARIOT,
HERCULES LOOKS OVER HIS SHOULDER AT A
TERRIFYING ILLUSION...



IF I CAN GET UP
HERE, I'LL BE SAFE
FROM THE FIRE-
BREATHING MONSTER!



FORGET HERCULES! WE ARE ABOUT TO BREACH THE WALLS!



YOU'RE RIGHT, DAEDELLUS!
LET THE CATAPULT AND
BATTERING RAM DO
THEIR WORK!



MEANWHILE...



WHEN HERCULES SEES THE WIERDLY DISTORTED ILLUSION OF TEWT...



GREAT ZEUS! MY PLANS WORKING!
HERE COMES HERC!





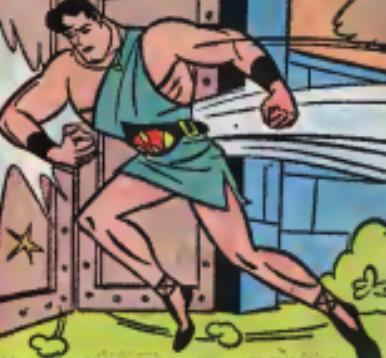






AND AS THE RAM SLAMS INTO THE BUCKLING GATES, SUDDENLY...

ROOOOMP!



WHAM!

HE-HELP!



YEOW!



BEFORE THE STARTLED INVADERS CAN RISE, THE GATES FLY OPEN AND OUT STRIDES THE MIGHTY HERCULES...

MIND IF I USE YOUR BATTERING RAM?



HE-HEY!

WA-WATCH OUT!







PHYSICAL FITNESS

NUMBER 2

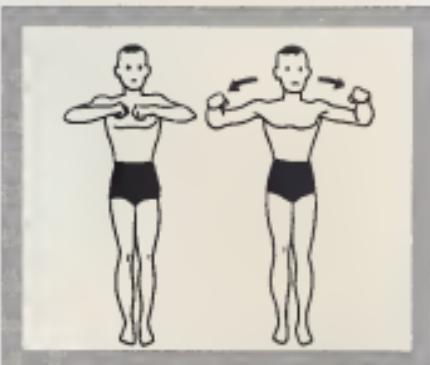
Activities to Develop ARMS, SHOULDERS CHEST, MUSCLES



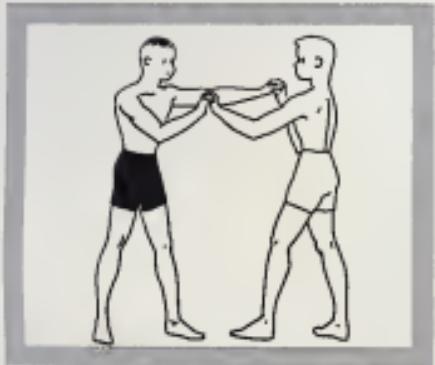
Pull-ups: Each pull-up places the chin over the bar—with the body hanging still and straight—in a single, smooth movement.



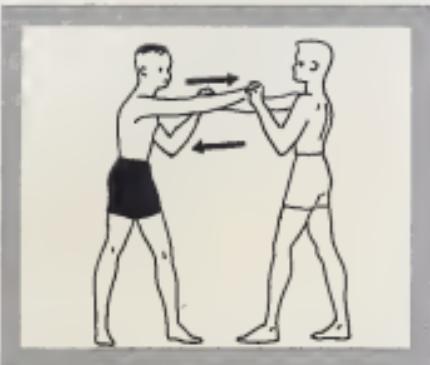
Girls, who are less muscular, can build strength with this modified pull-up. So, too, can boys with below-average development.



Wing stretcher: Keep the elbows at shoulder height; thrust them back to the limit; bring them forward, repeat until refreshed.



Sawing wood: Grasp your partner's hands, interlacing fingers; plant your feet firmly, for this is going to be a vigorous exercise.



Now—saw wood! Pump arms alternately, with plenty of vim and vigor; do it faster and faster, but don't upset your partner.

THE MIGHTY HERCULES

PIN-UP NO. 1

